



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

101 Weeping Willow, Uvalde, Texas 78801

Phone: (830) 278-9503, Ext. 4 • Fax: (830) 278-9348 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: October 11, 2005
Release Number TX 419.05

Contact Name: Jaime Maldonado
Telephone Number: 830-278-9503, Ext. 4
Email: Jaime.Maldonado@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR HONDO HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

HONDO, TEXAS, October 11, 2005 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced the Hondo Hospital Authority will receive \$11,500,000 through the agency's Community Facilities loan program. The funds will be used to expand and renovate the Medina Community Hospital. The improvements will allow the hospital to provide a full range of services including in-patient medical care, specialized medical assistance in several fields, and a Level IV Trauma Facility.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to assist the City of Hondo in updating their 40 year old medical facility," said Daniel. "When complete, the hospital will double in size to 60,000 square feet and offer comprehensive medical assistance to the 7,900 residents that live in Hondo and the surrounding areas."

The goals of USDA Rural Development's Community Programs are to enhance the economic opportunities and quality of life for residents of rural communities through loan and grant programs that create or improve telecommunications, community facilities, and water and waste systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$868 million for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 840,000 households in the process.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Uvalde office at 830-278-9503, Ext. 4 or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

###

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).